...AH

AHH!!

THIS ART IS BEAUTIFUL AS USUAL.

THE ONE MOUTHFUL OF BLOOD I WAS GRANTED IS MAKING ME EVEN MORE THIRSTY...

PANT

TO THINK BONES CAN DRINK THIS WHENEVER HE WANTS...WHAT A LUCKY GUY.

MM...

UGH...

I WANT ONE TOO...

THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE. THE BONES FAMILY SPECIALLY BRED THIS ART AFTER ALL.

JUST HAVING ONE INCREASES THEIR STATUS...

NEED HELP?

HAVE THE PHEROMONES NOT WORN OFF YET?

HUMPTY DUMPTY.

...I CAN DO IT MYSELF.

WELL, IF YOU SAY SO~

CLACK

CLACK

... ...

WOBBLE

...!

GRAB

I SAID I CAN DO IT MY-

AH,

I'M...

CLENCH

?!

YOU'VE FINALLY...

...COME BACK...!

second chapter

masquerade

– play 30 –

GLANCE...

NOT HERE EITHER... WHERE COULD HE...

...!

MOTHER...!

IT'S BEEN A WHILE. ARE YOU WELL?

AH, SHELL.

I HEARD YOU'D TAKEN OVER THE CENTRAL BANK.

YOUR FATHER SENT HIS OTHER SONS TO ME,

BUT I GUESS HE SAW FIT TO GIVE THE BANK TO THE SON THAT RESEMBLED HIM MOST.

WHAT A JOKE.

AFTER ALL THAT TALK SAYING OTHERWISE...

REGARDLESS, IT'S NICE THAT THE NORTH IS SO COOL.

THE SOUTH ALWAYS SEEMS TO BE GETTING HOTTER.

SINCE IT'S WINTER NOW, IT SHOULDN'T BE GETTING HOTTER.

...WAS THAT THING YOU WERE WITH BEFORE YOUR ART?

AH, THAT'S...

HE LOOKED EXACTLY LIKE THAT ART OF YOUR FATHER'S THAT RAN AWAY...

YOU EVEN HAVE THE SAME TASTE AS HIM. HOW SCARY...

CLACK

CLACK

...

IF ONLY THAT WERE TRUE MOTHER...

COME BACK?

I'M, ... HUH?

AH...

ZZZooo

...NEVERMIND.

CLENCH

I...MADE A MISTAKE.

... .

YOU DON'T LOOK WELL, ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE OKAY?

PAT

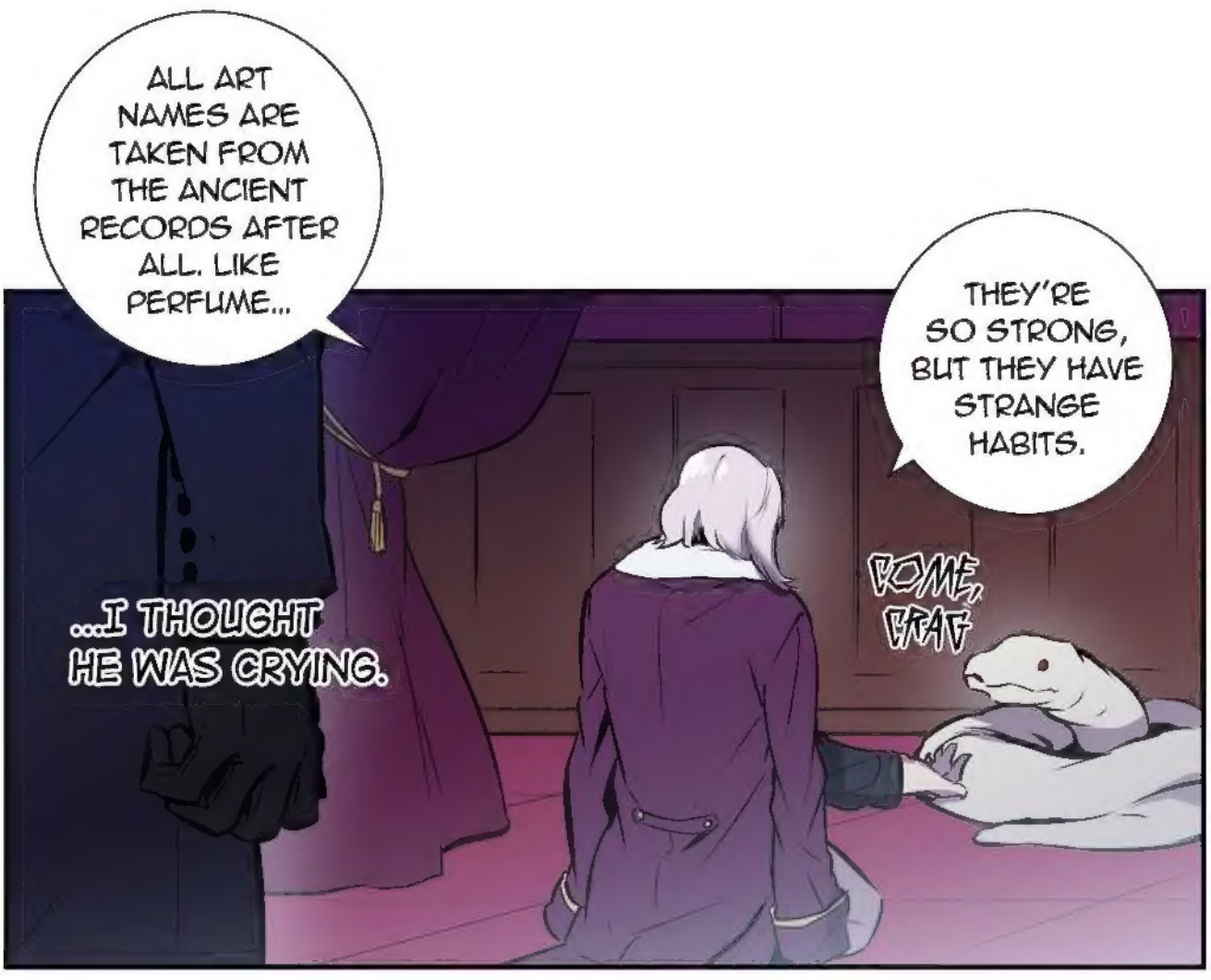
I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU THOUGHT I WAS,

BUT IF I WERE HIM, I DOUBT I WOULD'VE LEFT YOU ON YOUR OWN.

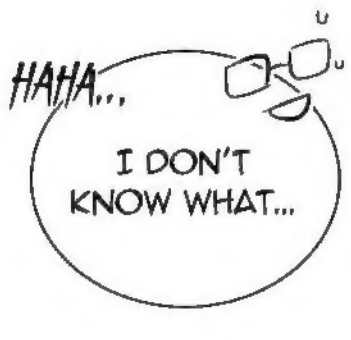
HUMPTY... DUMPTY.

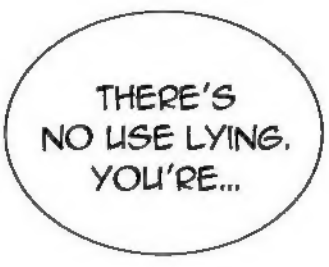
I WONDER...

? THAT EXPRESSION...
STEP
PITIFUL NAME ISN'T IT?
"HUMPTY DUMPTY"


ALL ART NAMES ARE TAKEN FROM THE ANCIENT RECORDS AFTER ALL. LIKE PERFUME...
THEY'RE SO STRONG, BUT THEY HAVE STRANGE HABITS.
COME, CRAB
...I THOUGHT HE WAS CRYING.

ANYWAY, YOU'RE...NOT AN ART RIGHT?
FLINCH


HAHA...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT...


THERE'S NO USE LYING. YOU'RE...

...TOO UGLY TO BE AN ART.
BULGE

THESE DAMNED ARTS...

TREMBLE

TREMBLE

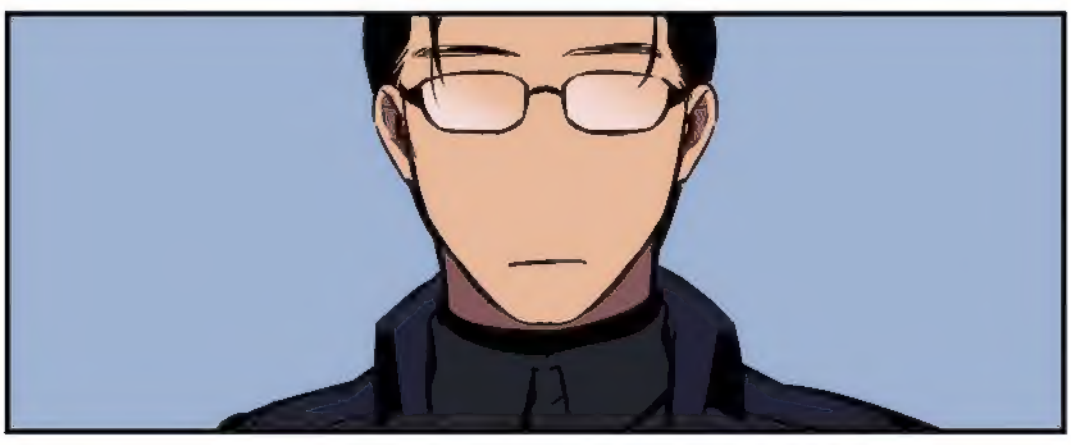
I GUESS ALL ARTS THINK THEY CAN SAY WHATEVER THEY WANT TO PEOPLE THEY'VE JUST MET, HUH? HOW OLD ARE YOU?

HMM. OLD ENOUGH TO BE YOUR FATHER?

STOP KIDDING AROUND!

I'M NOT.

I'M 39 THIS YEAR.



EHH?!

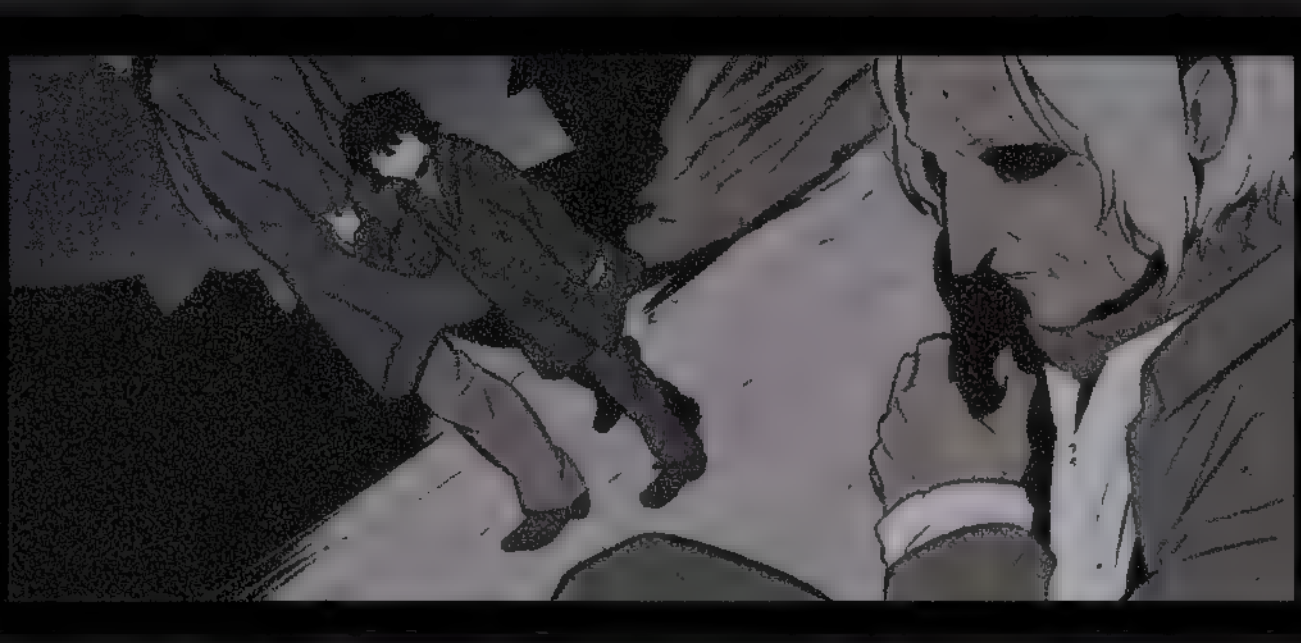
MY MASTER DIDN'T WANT HIS PRECIOUS ART TO CHANGE.

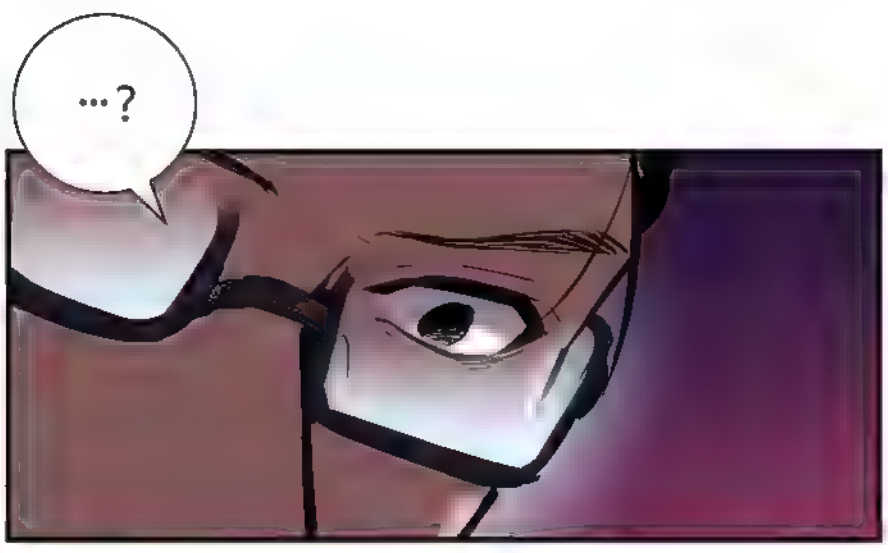
WHEN I WAS AROUND YOUR AGE, I WAS GIVEN A SPECIAL DRUG BY MY CURATOR.

...

THAT'S WHY I STILL LOOK THE SAME, DESPITE BEING 40.

I DOUBT THERE ARE ANY HUMANS OLDER THAN I AM...




…?

WHAT'S WRONG?
AH, NOTHING. IT'S NOTHING...

...I'M ACTUALLY FROM A BANK.
MY NAME IS ONE.
A BANKER...

WHY ARE YOU...
GLINT
BECAUSE I WORKED HARD.
MASTER SHELL TOLD ME I SHOULD GAIN MORE KNOWLEDGE, AND BROUGHT ME HERE.

HAHA, I SEE. SHELL OVERLORD...

THE OVERLORDS MUST BE HAPPY THEY HAVE SUCH A STRONG SUCCESSOR...

...!

...YOU SOUND AS IF.

BRUTAL BONES DOESN'T HAVE AN HEIR...

... ...

HE HAD...

...A DAUGHTER, BUT...

THE SNAKE SYMBOL VAMPIRE "HAD" A DAUGHTER...?

CLENCH...

...BUT IT'S STRANGE.

EH?

THE PERSON I CONFUSED YOU WITH.

HE BELONGED TO THE OVERLORD FAMILY TOO...

ALTHOUGH HE DISAPPEARED ONE DAY...

YOU'VE COME BACK...!

MY MOST PRECIOUS FRIEND, AND OLDER BROTHER...

PAIN OVERLORD'S ART, ELLIE.

THAT NAME... AGAIN-

...COULD THIS BE WHAT THEY CALL FATE?

..... .

I KNOW THIS IS SUDDEN, BUT I'D LIKE TO MAKE A REQUEST...

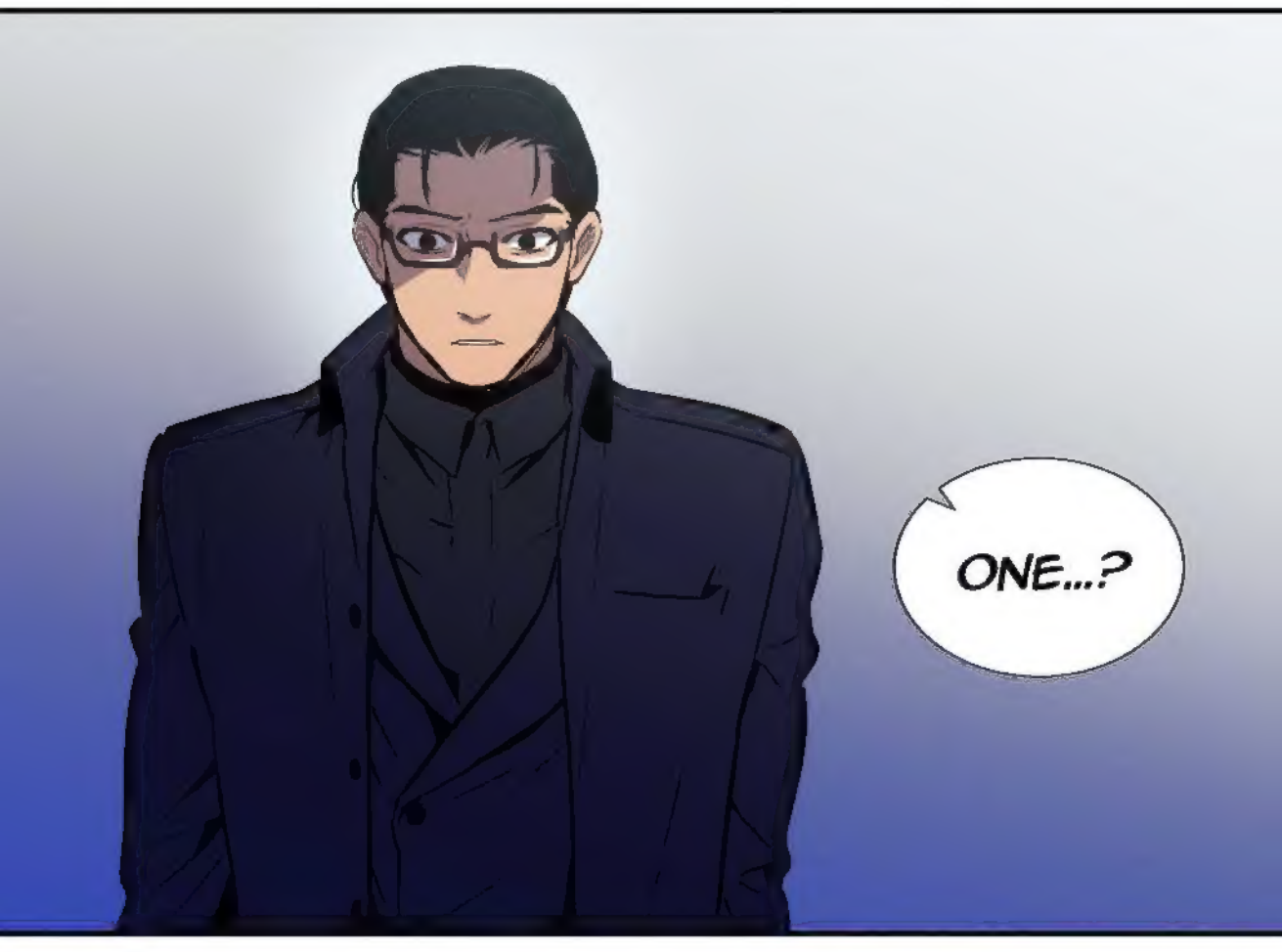
WHAT DO YOU...?

IT COULD BE DANGEROUS.

BUT, I DON'T KNOW WHEN I'LL BE ABLE TO MEET A BANKER LIKE YOU SO...

...?

IF YOU RETURN TO THE MIDLANDS, THE BANK RECORDS SHOULD-...



To be continued!

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